

# Implementation of the National Incident Management System

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<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/proprule/2006-1/030106b.html>)

**Background:** In accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-5, the NIMS provides a consistent approach for Federal, State, and local governments to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity.

Implementation of the NIMS is a dynamic process that will continue to evolve over time. In order to receive Federal preparedness funding, LEAs must cooperate with the efforts of their communities to meet the minimum NIMS requirements established for each fiscal year. We established an application requirement for LEAs to implement the NIMS in FY 2005. Because of the dynamic nature of the NIMS, we believe certain changes to that requirement are necessary.

**Requirement:** Applicants must agree to implement their grant in a manner consistent with the implementation of the NIMS in their communities. Applicants must include in their applications an assurance that they have met, or will complete, all current NIMS requirements by the end of the grant period.

Because DHS' determination of NIMS requirements may change from year to year, applicants must refer to the most recent list of NIMS requirements published by DHS when submitting their applications. In any notice inviting applications, the Department will provide applicants with information necessary to access the most recent DHS list of NIMS requirements.

Note: An LEA's NIMS compliance must be achieved in close coordination with the local government and with recognition of the first responder capabilities held by the LEA and the local government. As LEAs are not traditional response organizations, first responder services will typically be provided to LEAs by local fire and rescue departments, emergency medical service providers, and law enforcement agencies. This traditional relationship must be acknowledged in achieving NIMS compliance in an integrated NIMS compliance plan for the local government and the LEA. LEA participation in the NIMS preparedness program of the local government is essential in ensuring that first responder services are delivered to schools in a timely and effective manner. Additional information about NIMS implementation and requirements is available at <http://www.fema.gov/nims>.

## 2. Infectious Disease Plan

**Background:** Infectious diseases pose a significant threat for the school environment. In addition to common infectious diseases, such as stomach viruses, seasonal influenza, infestation with lice/scabies, and viral meningitis, health professionals from the Department of Health and Human Services have warned of a new threat attributed to Avian Influenza A (H5N1). The H5N1 virus poses a risk for worldwide infection. In addition to causing widespread illness, an especially severe influenza pandemic could result in widespread school closings, absenteeism, and disruptions to the learning environment in general. Whether or not a pandemic strikes, seasonal influenza and other infectious diseases continue to pose a concern with respect to the health of students as well as the optimal functioning of schools. Although it may be difficult to prevent a widespread pandemic or other infectious disease outbreak, the effects can be mitigated through proper prevention and planning strategies.

**Requirement:** To be considered for a grant award, applicants must agree to develop a written plan designed to prepare the LEA for a possible infectious disease outbreak, such as pandemic influenza. Plans must address the four phases of crisis planning (Mitigation/Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery) and include a plan for disease surveillance (systematic collection and analysis of data which lead to action being taken to prevent and control a disease), school closure decision making, business continuity (processes and procedures established to ensure that essential functions can continue during and after a disaster), and continuation of educational services.